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United Nations Volunteers

Report of the Administrator

Elements of a decision

In taking note of the present report, the Executive Board may also wish to

1. Express appreciation for the activities of the United Nations Volunteers programme during the 2000-2001 biennium and the achievement for the first time of over 5,000 serving volunteers in its thirtieth anniversary year;

2. Welcome the contribution of the UNV programme to raising the awareness among the international community and within the United Nations system of the importance of volunteerism in addressing the full range of development challenges;

3. Recognize the role of the United Nations Volunteers programme as a facilitator of South-South exchange and as a window of opportunity for global citizens to engage as volunteers in United Nations activities for peace and development;

4. Reaffirm the importance of the Special Voluntary Fund in enabling the United Nations Volunteers programme to continue its work in piloting initiatives that demonstrate the role that volunteerism and volunteers play in development;

5. Commend the United Nations Volunteers programme on its work as focal point for the International Year of Volunteers and encourage its continued support for the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteering.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the principle characteristics and achievements of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme during the biennium 2000-2001 and identifies some of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. The opportunities opened up by the International Year of Volunteers 2001 (IYV 2001), anticipated in the report for the previous biennium, have become a reality. Not only has the impact of IYV 2001 on the external environment for volunteer-related work greatly exceeded expectations, it has also reinforced the value attached to the volunteer dimensions of the development work of the UNV programme. Both phenomena are described in some detail in the report.

II United Nations Volunteers: an overview 2000 – 2001

A. Main characteristics and trends

2. The year 2001, the thirtieth anniversary of the UNV programme, marked an important turning point for the organization. Building on three decades of experience and the contributions of some 30,000 global citizens who served the United Nations as volunteers in the cause of peace and development, UNV continued to carry out its role as focal point for IYV 2001 while at the same time expanding its own programme activities. Through its role as focal point, UNV has deepened its own understanding of the value of volunteerism and the important economic contributions that it makes to society as well as its role in creating social cohesion by building trust and reciprocity among people.

3. UNV is now, more than ever, positioned to become a people's portal to the United Nations - to provide an entry point for people from around the world to relate to the work of the United Nations because they can connect its efforts to what they are doing in their own communities. IYV 2001 has also helped volunteers to realize that they are part of something that happens in every country, in every culture, and in every religion, regardless of the fact that it might be called by different names in different cultural settings.

4. At the core of these characteristics and trends is an understanding of the pressing need to address the issue of poverty and to incorporate into poverty-reduction strategies those actions that tackle its root causes as well as those that deal with its manifestations. In almost all societies, the most basic of values is people helping people and, in the process, helping themselves. People help one another in countless ways — from participating in burial societies to patrolling streets to make them safe; from replacing roofs on houses after a storm to providing community care for HIV/AIDS victims. This enormous reservoir of skills, energy and local knowledge must be factored into development and development-cooperation strategies at national and international levels.

5. What became increasingly evident to UNV during the preparations for IYV 2001, therefore, was that its role as the volunteer arm of the United Nations must take on new meaning — that the organization's responsibilities as focal point and its regular work of mobilizing volunteers are complementary and mutually reinforcing. IYV 2001 provided UNV with greatly enhanced visibility through its support to initiatives at global, regional and national levels. It also connected UNV with the domestic volunteering agenda and key players in countries both in the North and South. This represents an important new constituency well beyond the previous UNV partnership base. There is great potential to draw upon this base to enrich further the impact of the programme in future years.

6. Against this background, the UNV programme in terms of the number of volunteer assignments and the number of individual volunteers involved continued to grow during 2000-2001. Development cooperation activities remained the hallmark of UNV programme implementation. The trend towards humanitarian and emergency relief, peace-building and electoral support also continued to gain momentum.

7. Annex I to the present report gives a statistical overview of UNV activities over time. It provides information, by region, on the number of volunteer assignments that were carried out by international and national volunteers, and on the number of individual volunteers who were involved, by country of origin and by gender. The data illustrates the continuous growth. Some of the significant highlights are discussed below.

8. Overall, the number of assignments carried out in 2001 increased by 677 or 14 per cent compared to 1999 (last year of previous biennium). The number of individual volunteers involved also grew, from 4,383 in 1999 to 5,090 in 2001, an increase of 16 per cent. The large-scale involvement in Kosovo and East Timor accounts for the exceptional growth in the Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Asia and the Pacific regions. The decrease in absolute numbers of UNV assignments in Africa is mainly due to the completion of UNV support to the elections held in Nigeria and the Central African Republic in the previous biennium and the phasing out of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA).

9. During 2000-2001, UNV volunteers worked in 140 countries and represented a record 160 nationalities. This illustrates the unique opportunity that the programme offers to people from all countries to get engaged in United Nations activities for peace and development. The majority of UNV volunteers (66 per cent in 2001) were nationals of developing countries. Of these, some 60 per cent served outside their home countries. The UNV programme thus continued to represent a concrete form of South-South cooperation.

10. Combining the expertise and knowledge of international and national UNV volunteers has continued to be an effective means of enhancing capacity development, reinforcing sustainability, providing opportunities for networking among different nationalities, and promoting the spirit of volunteerism and global solidarity. As reflected in the table, there was a further increase in the number of assignments by UNV volunteers in their own country.

11. The number of women who served as UNV volunteers grew in absolute terms from 1,572 in 1999 to 1,883 in 2001 (20 per cent). In the context of the UNV goal to ensure the fullest participation of women, it is noteworthy that the percentage of women serving in the traditionally male-dominated areas of emergency, humanitarian, peace-keeping and electoral processes increased from 30 to 34 per cent during the reporting period. Development-related assignments also showed a higher percentage of female UNV volunteers and attained a ratio of 39:61, close to achieving the UNV goal of a female/male ratio of between 40:60 and 60:40.

B. Programme activities

12. The overview of UNV programme activities and results follows the goals, subgoals, and strategic areas of support as laid down in the UNDP strategic results framework (SRF). The SRF has proven to be a useful instrument through which UNV can present results of its activities. It is also a means through which UNV can convey the value-added that UNV volunteers bring to United Nations operations. This is illustrated in many of the examples of activities presented in the present report. During the biennium, in collaboration with UNDP headquarters and country offices, steps were taken to ensure that the outcomes of UNV country-level activities were better reflected in the UNDP results-oriented annual report (ROAR).

1. The enabling environment for sustainable human development

13. Volunteerism is an important component of effective governance and successful social and economic development. Although volunteering constitutes an enormous reservoir of skills, energy and local knowledge, it is rarely recognized as a strategic resource that can be positively influenced by public policy. By increasing the efficiency and outreach of national programmes, volunteer stakeholders can help to anchor these initiatives in the reality of communities. The challenge is, therefore, to harness this strategic resource so that national policy formulation and implementation can be integrated in a mutually reinforcing way. During the biennium, key areas of UNV involvement

in helping to create a climate for sustainable human development included contributions to decentralization processes; the promotion of human rights; and support to electoral operations. During 2000 and 2001, over a third of all UNV assignments supported activities in this programme area.

14. UNV continued to support decentralization processes that promote participatory local governance and the empowerment of communities. The activities of UNV volunteers at the community level complemented UNDP work at the national level by supporting the translation of policies into practice and providing feedback for policy formulation and monitoring. The Gambia provides a good example of how the work of UNV volunteers has contributed to fostering participatory governance processes. In support of the local authorities responsible for implementing the national decentralization programme, UNV volunteers worked with multidisciplinary facilitation teams (MDFTs) to create awareness of the reform process, including the formation and registration of elected village development committees, and civic roles and responsibilities within the reformed local government structures. At the community level, the UNV volunteers assisted in the establishment of over 200 village development committees and provided support to the implementation of their development activities. The UNV volunteers also helped to conduct baseline surveys in areas such as health, education, water supply and agriculture in almost 150 villages, the objective being to use this information as inputs to local government development plans as well as to guide the capacity-building process and to provide a benchmark for future monitoring and evaluation. All these activities fall within a national government legislative framework slated for passage at the time of finalizing the present report.

15. Strengthening the efficiency and accountability of the public sector is another area in which UNV volunteers have contributed to the overall governance goal of UNDP. One such example is in Uganda, where UNV lawyers and financial audit specialists serving with the Office of the Inspector General of the Government trained staff in auditing, financial tracking and in the investigation of corruption and fraud cases. As part of this process, the UNV volunteers provided guidance and hands-on advice on the gathering of evidence, witness briefing, file assembly, case presentations and the handling of appeal cases. So far, a number of high-profile fraud cases in the public sector have been successfully prosecuted. This has contributed to increased confidence in the transparency of the public sector.

16. The trust and confidence that volunteers engender in their work, including through their association with the United Nations, has been an important source of strength to UNV activities in the area of human rights. During the biennium, UNV was active in global as well as country-level activities. The Human Rights Strengthening Programme (HURIST), launched by UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), supports the development of national human rights action plans and the adoption of a rights-based approach to development programming. Within this context, UNV volunteers, assigned to 18 UNDP country offices, assisted in mainstreaming the implementation of this approach. They conducted human rights briefings for United Nations country teams, prepared internal UNDP workshops on the integration of human rights to development activities, organized OHCHR formulation missions and drafted training modules. Drawing on a successful experience in a gender mainstreaming project initiated by UNDP/ the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)/UNV in the previous biennium, UNV set up and managed a network among the UNV volunteers serving under the HURIST programme to facilitate the sharing of information and building of knowledge.

17. At a national level, and also in the context of the HURIST programme, UNV volunteers helped to strengthen local capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights. In Mongolia, for example, UNV volunteers from remote areas working within their communities collected data on human rights issues and helped to establish relations between local authorities and civil society. This helped to form the basis for an expansion of the project in which the UNV volunteers conducted human rights training for government officials, facilitated public access to information and supported the development of provincial human rights action plans. In Guatemala, both international and national UNV volunteers have, for a number of years, been the mainstay of the United Nations Verification Mission (MINUGUA) at the district and local levels. Parallel to this, UNV volunteers were engaged in UNDP initiatives designed to support the peace process by helping to build the capacity of local and national organizations to conduct training and raise awareness in addressing human rights issues. Within this context, special attention was given to the participation, rights

and leadership of women in local organizations, particularly indigenous women, opening space for their inclusion in the nation's political dialogue. Equally important, the work of the UNV volunteers helped to re-establish forms of volunteerism and self-help that had been the hallmark of traditional community life prior to the civil conflict.

18. UNV capacity to support electoral processes by bringing together qualified and experienced volunteers of different nationalities and cultures to work primarily at the community level contributes significantly to the success of these elections. At the same time, it provides an important and unique window of opportunity for global citizens to participate in peace and development activities of the United Nations. During the reporting period, nationals representing more than 65 countries supported the international community in providing electoral assistance to Bangladesh, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, East Timor, Fiji, Guyana, Haiti, Kosovo, Sao Tome and Principe and Suriname. The largest operation during the period was the municipal elections in Kosovo that took place in October 2000. The 450 UNV volunteers mobilized for this election constituted 80 per cent of the Joint Registration Task Force of the Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). They played a key role in the process of registering just over one million voters in Kosovo along with an additional 150,000 Kosovar in neighbouring Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro. In East Timor, UNV volunteers played a significant role in the civil registration process leading up to the first national elections on 30 August 2001. This ballot to choose the Constituent Assembly was a good example of the efforts undertaken by UNV volunteers to strengthen local capacity. In the previous biennium, for example, the popular consultation for independence was organized almost exclusively by international personnel, the majority of them being some 480 UNV District Electoral Officers. In contrast, the 2001 elections were prepared to a large extent by East Timorese nationals who had previously been trained by their UNV volunteer counterparts. Although the 284 UNV volunteers who supported the electoral process still accounted for a large international presence, their number was significantly smaller than during the 1999 referendum and their tasks put increased emphasis on empowering the people of East Timor. The next step in electoral capacity-building by UNV volunteers is under way at the time of finalizing the present document. For the Presidential election in April 2002, UNV has been called upon to recruit only 150 international UNV volunteers. However, it has also been requested to administer 150 trained national electoral officers with the same terms of reference and responsibilities.

2. Poverty reduction

19. The creation of opportunities for all members of a community to influence and contribute to their own development process is central to activities relating to the reduction of poverty and the betterment of the human condition. In support of UNDP and other programmes targeting poverty reduction, mixed teams of international and national UNV volunteers assisted community-based initiatives in over 43 countries during the reporting period. Approximately 20 per cent of all volunteer assignments fell within this programme area.

20. Strengthening local institutions and fostering ownership and participation are integral components of poverty-reduction strategies. UNV activities in Mozambique illustrate well how UNV volunteers can support government efforts in this regard. Working closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs), the UNV volunteers helped to strengthen their capacity to identify needs, plan activities, monitor implementation and assess performance. On the technical side, they provided advisory services, including training in micro-business, crop production, animal husbandry and handicraft manufacturing. The stimulus provided by the UNV volunteers encouraged the establishment of new community groups with close to 500 members. It also led to better coordination among NGOs, traders and local government; greater ownership by communities of their own development; and expanded opportunities for income generation. The enhanced capacity of the targeted groups was demonstrated when devastating floods hit Mozambique in 2000 and 2001 and most of the partner NGOs could react flexibly and efficiently to support flood victims.

21. In line with the UNV role in promoting South-South cooperation among regions, UNV volunteers supported the strengthening of local and regional institutions in the context of the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II) Agenda for Action. In West Africa, for example, UNV volunteers from Asia assisted the

West African Rice Development Authority (WARDA) in its efforts to introduce a hybrid rice variety through the participatory varietal selection — a method that encourages farmers to compare growth patterns of new and traditional varieties on small patches of land. The UNV volunteers coordinated this research in all 17 WARDA member countries, streamlined electronic data collection, and provided training to farmers' associations and extension agents. Combining high yields with shortened planting cycles, the new variety has increased the farmers' income and helped to prevent food shortages that often occur in August and September. It has also substantially reduced the burden on women, who constitute some 80 per cent of farmers under this programme, thus allowing them to pursue other activities.

22. Recognizing the particular role that youth play in shaping the development of their societies and the need to harness this potential, UNV launched pilot projects financed from the UNV Special Voluntary Fund (SVF) to explore ways in which, by building on and promoting a culture of volunteerism, youth can be mobilized and engaged in support of poverty-reduction initiatives. Specific examples that illustrate the role UNV played in fostering this potential included creating opportunities for young graduates to volunteer; supporting the implementation of programmes targeting rural youth; and working with governmental bodies to improve their capacity to deliver youth programmes.

23. In Guatemala and Nicaragua, for example, UNV initiated a partnership with universities to engage young graduates as volunteers in development activities that contribute to poverty reduction. To date, some 60 graduates have supported efforts aimed at disaster preparedness and improvement of housing in remote settlements. In addition to the immediate benefits for the communities involved, the initiative fostered a sense of solidarity and service among the students, many of whom had previously had little exposure to the rural poor in their own countries. In Bangladesh, UNV volunteers played a key role in providing guidance to youth clubs in planning and carrying out community-level activities. By the end of the biennium, these youth clubs had launched more than 300 initiatives such as road repair, tree planting or building latrines; assisted more than 2,000 women and children to access health care services; and supported some 3,000 women to benefit from small-scale income-generating activities. In Azerbaijan, the involvement of young people in volunteer action helped to instill a sense of responsibility towards their communities and stimulate greater participation in their own development. Working closely with local authorities, UNV volunteers assisted in the launching of awareness-raising campaigns among communities and youth groups, and in identifying opportunities for young people to develop and apply their skills through volunteer action. Activities implemented during the reporting period included coaching children in orphanages, teaching English to internally displaced people, and caring for disabled persons. Furthermore, as a result of an awareness campaign on volunteerism conducted at universities, in youth centres and in the media, 3,200 students and young people applied to become part of the activities carried out under the project. As research has shown, the early engagement of young people as volunteers is a good predictor of their lifelong involvement in volunteer activities.

24. UNV continued its programme activities in cooperation with UNDP and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Following the successful work undertaken by HIV-positive UNV volunteers in several African states, similar initiatives were expanded to eight countries in Asia and the Caribbean, namely: Cambodia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The involvement of UNV volunteers who are themselves HIV-positive continued to be an effective means of building networks among people living with HIV/AIDS and strengthening the capacity of self-help groups in dealing with the social and economic impact of the epidemic at the community level. In the Caribbean, for example, UNV volunteers helped to strengthen networks of People Living With HIV/AIDS, raising their awareness of the important role they can play in society. The UNV volunteers provided peer counseling, organized access to health care, trained lawyers and judges on the rights of people affected, and provided support and information in prisons to stop the alarming spread of HIV/AIDS in detention cells. Equally important was the opportunity provided to the UNV volunteers to play an active role in transforming their own lives, and the lives of others, rather than accepting their status as a stigmatized group.

25. As part of the broader effort to raise awareness at both the national and international level, UNV enlisted the support of the former President of Ghana, Mr. Jerry Rawlings. Invited by the Secretary-General to serve as an Eminent

Person for the International Year of Volunteers 2001 (see paragraph 54), and under the awareness-raising campaign banner of Volunteers against AIDS in Africa, he traveled to Botswana, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania and attended the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries held at Brussels in May 2001. His public appearances resulted in widespread outreach to political leaders, youth and the military and contributed to increased advocacy activity by civil society organizations and governments alike in those countries.

26. The importance of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the fight against poverty was underscored in the report of the Secretary-General to the Millennium Summit. In support of this initiative, UNDP identified the potential of ICT as a means to create earnings opportunities, improve access to education and facilitate information and knowledge-sharing. In this context, UNV contributions to bridging the digital divide included activities undertaken within the United Nations Technology Information Service (UNITeS) framework (see paragraph 45). During the biennium, UNV volunteers supported activities in more than 35 countries, ranging from creating networks for information flows to establishing volunteer-based community telecentres.

27. In Jordan, UNV volunteers helped to set up a network of community telecentres where people in remote areas receive ICT training and access the Internet. The telecentres, which are part of the Government's strategy to increase the usage of ICT, are modeled after a UNDP pilot initiative that was successfully implemented with the support of UNV volunteers in information-poor communities in Egypt. According to a recent evaluation, the typical value-added of the UNV volunteers was their ability to transform the telecentres from technology centres to development centres in which ICT quickly became a means to gather and apply knowledge rather than an end in itself.

28. Within the context of UNDP support to the Government of Bhutan, UNV volunteers played a role in ensuring access to ICT for a broad cross-section of the population. As part of the efforts to strengthen the information technology capacity of selected technical ministries, for example, UNV volunteers provided advice on strategic plans for ICT, guidance on appropriate ICT applications and training in communications and web design. In support of tertiary education institutions, they developed an information technology training course for trainee teachers, wrote computer manuals and conducted in-service training during the vacation periods. Targeted awareness-raising programmes and specialized training courses were also set up for youth and the general public.

3. Special development situations

29. In a world characterized by uncertainty, volunteering provides a strong platform for reconnecting people who have become divided. Building on the underlying principles of solidarity, cooperation and reciprocity, volunteer action can serve as a key source of reconciliation and reconstruction, of building and restoring trust in societies emerging from crisis. In efforts to support countries in special development situations, UNV activities during the biennium involved peace-keeping, peace-building and reconciliation, rebuilding national capacities, and economic recovery and relief activities aimed at reconstruction and rehabilitation in the wake of man-made or natural disasters. During the reporting period, approximately 30 per cent of all UNV assignments were carried out in this programme area.

30. In 2000-2001, UNV volunteers were involved in humanitarian and relief operations in over 45 countries, the largest being in the Balkans and the Great Lakes region. The majority of UNV volunteers were assigned to operations carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP). In 2000, UNHCR awarded the Nansen Medal to UNV in recognition of the 1,500 UNV volunteers who had served with UNHCR over the past decade. This prestigious medal is awarded annually to groups and individuals who have distinguished themselves in refugee work.

31. UNV involvement in operations under the auspices of the Department for Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO) of the United Nations Secretariat continued to be an important area of work in support of countries in special development situations. During the biennium, UNV volunteers supported eight peace missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor, Eritrea, Guatemala, Haiti, Kosovo and Sierra Leone. In total, nearly

1,600 UNV assignments were undertaken in 2000 and over 1,700 in 2001. The particular contributions of UNV volunteers to United Nations peace operations were underlined in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, known as the Brahimi Report (A/55/305-S/2000/809). In paragraph 142 of the report the panel noted that UNV volunteers have "historically proven to be dedicated and competent in their fields of work" and that "the legislative bodies have encouraged greater use of United Nations Volunteers in peace-keeping operations based on their exemplary past performance". In response to recommendations made by the Panel, DPKO developed a comprehensive global staffing strategy for civilian personnel serving in peace-keeping operations. On the invitation of DPKO, a representative of UNV was a full member of the task force responsible for the development of the strategy. The new strategy recognizes that the uniqueness of the UNV programme and its source of strength and comparative advantage is the volunteer spirit on which it rests and confirms that volunteering is one of the important ways in which people can participate and reciprocate in societal development. Acknowledging that the value of UNV must be seen as going beyond that of a staffing modality, the strategy provides that, as a matter of policy, UNV volunteers will always form an integral component of United Nations operations involving civilian personnel, with their own specific conditions of service.

32. Helping to bridge the gap between relief and development is another area where the involvement of UNV volunteers has proven to be an asset in recovery and rehabilitation processes. In East Timor, for example, in addition to playing a crucial role in the first national elections (see paragraph 18), UNV volunteers were involved in all aspects of development as well as in national reconstruction and capacity-building. Serving as the outreach arm of the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor (UNTAET) and acting as advisors to the East Timor Transitional Authority (ETTA), the UNV volunteers – representing 140 professional specializations – supported the work at the district and the community level. Their activities ranged from assistance to refugees who had fled during the post-referendum violence, to support in building up the public sector in areas such as administration, health and education. They also helped to establish customs and immigration offices and developed strategies for agricultural production. During the biennium, almost 900 UNV volunteers from 106 countries served with UNTAET in development-related activities. Given the demonstrated contributions of volunteers in developing local capacity, it is envisaged that about 250 UNV volunteers will continue to work with the new national authorities in economic, social and administrative capacity-building

33. Following internal conflicts, lack of confidence often accounts for continued tensions. In such situations, volunteerism has proven to be a key element in promoting trust and building bonds among the members of divided groups. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, UNV volunteers worked with youth from Croat, Serb and Bosniak communities to foster understanding and cooperation. At multicultural summer camps organized by the UNV volunteers, hundreds of young people learned to reach across divisive barriers. Pilot radio programmes and a web site developed in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) were managed by youth to reach youth in other communities. In addition, the UNV team trained local facilitators in conflict resolution and confidence-building and set up a reconciliation fund to encourage divided groups to submit joint proposals for communal activities. To date, some 1,600 people have benefited from this fund. The activities supported by the fund typically stimulate involvement and further volunteering on the part of involved community groups such as parent-teacher associations, youth centres and anti-drug campaigners. An independent review of UNV involvement in conflict resolution and confidence-building in 2000 concluded, that "(The UNV) approach has generally been low-key and non-threatening, characterized by flexibility, responsiveness and accessibility. Operating with the authority of the United Nations but the informality of an NGO, UNV has become a means for the United Nations to work in regions and on issues that have not always been within (the United Nations) compass".

34. Volunteers also have a major role to play in disaster response and preparedness. The activities complementing UNDP efforts in Gujarat provide good examples of the contributions of volunteer action ensuring the link between immediate relief efforts and longer-term measures for reconstruction and disaster preparedness. After Gujarat was hit by an earthquake, national UNV volunteers were mobilized to provide first aid and counseling, build shelters, reconstruct water and sanitation systems and give advice on entitlements to government compensation schemes in some of the

worst-affected communities. Once the most urgent needs had been met, the UNV volunteers engaged in a range of activities such as demonstrating how to construct seismically safe houses and conducting surveys of some 500 dams, and subsequently assisting in their repair.

4. Environment and gender

35. A central feature of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002, is to seek new ways of transforming sustainable development from vision to reality and to move from analysis of issues to action on the ground. This requires the active support of people. Indeed, no nation-wide effort to support sustainable development is likely to succeed without massive voluntary participation. Within that context, the linkages between poverty and environmental degradation are by now well known, as is the fact that threats to biological diversity fall unequally on the shoulders of women. In reporting on UNV activities within the cross-cutting themes of environmental preservation and gender equality, therefore, it is important to underscore that UNV continues to treat these issues as integral parts of all its community-based activities. While three to four per cent of volunteers have gender and environmental issues specifically as the core of their assignments, presented below are two of many examples that capture the mainstreamed contributions of UNV volunteers in these programme areas.

36. In Rwanda, working within the framework of the Government's poverty focus, UNV volunteers provided practical support to the advancement of women by strengthening the institutional capacity of NGOs and CBOs. UNV volunteers worked with more than 700 NGOs and CBOs to introduce measures including improved management and administrative practices, strengthened financial monitoring systems, and training courses in areas such as micro-credit. They also provided technical advice for small-scale income-generating activities. Particular emphasis was given to involving women's groups and identifying activities and related training requirements of priority to them. The UNV volunteers trained some 1,500 leaders of national women's organizations in gender issues, set up literacy programmes, and provided support in accessing micro-grants. Noteworthy is that 23 of these NGOs formed the Collectif Humura cooperative, which has subsequently mobilized sufficient financial resources to establish its own three-year micro-project programme.

37. In the Imbakucha Basin at Lake San Pablo in Ecuador, an area seriously afflicted by poverty and environmental degradation, UNV volunteers worked with local organizations and the indigenous population to support their efforts to generate income in an environmentally sustainable manner. Key tasks carried out by the UNV volunteers, many of them working within their own communities, included community mobilization, institutional capacity-building, environmental awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes, and the establishment of a micro-credit scheme. The farmers were encouraged to diversify their crops, resulting in community access to a greater variety of produce and improved food security in the region. The rediscovery and sale of plants that were traditionally used for medicinal purposes also generated additional income. More than 8,000 people, most notably indigenous women, have directly benefited from these changes. Moreover, by introducing activities that built on existing forms of volunteering and self-help in the region, the UNV volunteers have helped to reinforce the value of such traditions and their contribution to social cohesion within and among communities.

5. Support to the United Nations system

38. Volunteering is a key enabler of innovation, mutual learning and productivity in the programmes of the United Nations system. In empowering individuals, building solidarity, encouraging participation and creating networks of reciprocity, volunteer action constitutes a powerful force in helping to achieve common goals. Within this context, UNV work in mobilizing UNV volunteers and promoting volunteerism at the local level continued to be an important source of support to almost all United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes. Working primarily at the community level, they often act as an important outreach arm of the United Nations in translating policy into practice at the local level, creating opportunities for communities to influence and contribute to their own development, and strengthening local capacities to help to ensure sustainable outcomes. In addition to UNDP, significant partners

included DPKO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and World Food Programme (WFP) with whom UNV volunteers served in such diverse areas as humanitarian relief, peace-building, human rights verification, electoral supervision, HIV/AIDS education, ICT applications, income generation, gender-mainstreaming, environmental management and urban development. Particular attention was given during the reporting period to defining better the specific value-added of volunteer motivation and solidarity in responding to the needs and objectives of United Nations system partners and to identifying ways in which placement processes could be further refined. With this in mind and to strengthen further UNV cooperation with these partners, memoranda of understanding were signed or are being finalized with a number of agencies. On average, 12 per cent of UNV volunteers are assigned under this results area.

C. Lessons learned from reviews and evaluations

39. During the biennium, UNV carried out a total of 23 project, thematic or country programme reviews and evaluations covering activities in almost 40 countries. In all but two cases, independent consultants conducted these reviews and evaluations. The findings highlighted the particular attributes of the UNV programme as well as actions that should be taken to strengthen programme performance further.

40. Consistent with the findings cited earlier regarding UNV work in conflict resolution and confidence building (see paragraph 33), several other evaluations and reviews characterized the UNV volunteers – the main strength of UNV programme activities – as highly skilled, experienced, innovative, adaptable and culturally sensitive. Other key points emerging from evaluative activities included: the need to articulate key baseline and success indicators more clearly and ensure realistic timeframes in project design; the potential for UNV to demonstrate better the particular contributions of volunteers in environment-specific projects; and the need for UNV to adopt a more strategic approach to its involvement at the country level.

41. UNV has begun incorporating into all its evaluations a assessment of the value added of UNV volunteers to development efforts and a review of their achievements in the promotion of volunteerism. Future evaluations will benefit from these initial steps as UNV continues to develop this approach. A revised volunteer periodic reporting system introduced during the first half of 2002 will complement these efforts. The UNV programme continued to learn from evaluation findings through a variety of mechanisms such as thematic workshops to disseminate and internalize findings; systematic feedback to project design and approval processes; and greater staff involvement in guiding and carrying out evaluations. These initiatives have resulted in increased ownership by staff in ensuring their appropriate follow-up in response to evaluation recommendations.

D. Strengthening existing partnerships and building new ones

42. A central organizing principle of UNV work is to build itself into a highly networked programme that draws strength from strategic relationships and partnerships at the global, regional and country level. Enhanced by its role as focal point for the International Year of Volunteers, UNV significantly broadened its partnership base. These partnerships were invaluable in strengthening programme implementation, generating additional resources to expand activities and gaining increased visibility in the advocacy of volunteerism as a development concept.

43. UNV initiated contacts with a number of private sector entities with a view to engaging them in development cooperation through corporate volunteering. To date, cooperation agreements have been signed with two major corporations – a large American food processing enterprise and one of the world's leaders in water and energy services from France – both of which have subscribed to the United Nations Global Compact. Negotiations were also well under way with a third corporation in Germany. Under these agreements, corporations release their employees and support them to serve as UNV volunteers on short-term assignments in response to requests from programme countries. UNV

also piloted an initiative to promote better understanding of corporate social responsibility within developing countries and economies in transition. To that end, it established a partnership with a United Kingdom based NGO to support research into current trends in business/community relations. As a result, UNV volunteers were assigned in Brazil, Ghana, India, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Philippines and South Africa to carry out the research and subsequently explore the potential for joint activities involving both domestic and international volunteers.

44. In relation to UNV work in ICT, the UNITeS collaborative framework, which aims to help to build capacity on the use and applications of ICT for development through volunteer action, exemplifies how synergy among different partners with complementary resources and competencies can be a powerful tool for development. For example, further to the establishment of Networking Academies in 20 least developed countries by an international information technology corporation – with the involvement of UNDP, UNIFEM and USAID – UNV volunteers extended the outreach of the academies to ensure that disadvantaged groups would have better access to training opportunities. UNV also established contacts with several academic institutions with a view to mobilizing volunteers from their academics and students with knowledge and skills in networking technologies. An agreement was signed with an American university and volunteers were subsequently deployed. Discussions for a similar programme were also initiated with a university in Spain.

45. During the biennium, an independent review was undertaken by an external consultant to assess the relationship of UNV with 25 of its cooperating organizations – national entities that play an important role in helping UNV to mobilize human and financial resources. This was the third such review since 1998. The majority of cooperating organizations raised the point that UNV had raised its profile over recent years and had established a distinctive brand image. These core brand attributes are now seen as centring on the philosophy, value, people and actions associated with volunteering, both national and international. Moreover, UNV is viewed as having become more than just a sender and receiver of volunteers. Other points highlighted in the review included the role of UNV as a proponent and facilitator of South-South exchange and its enhanced accessibility, relevance and credibility as an organization. Cooperating organizations now look to UNV to take a more prominent and leading role in addressing and promoting the role of volunteers in technical cooperation. Within this context, UNV is encouraged to pursue its efforts to improve the ways in which it captures and measures the value-added of volunteer contributions to development processes and the promotion of volunteerism and to share its findings on a systematic basis.

E. The International Year of Volunteers 2001: UNV as focal point

46. In its resolution A/52/17 of 20 November 1997, the General Assembly, welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/44, proclaimed the International Year of Volunteers 2001 (IYV 2001) and invited "Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental, volunteer and non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations to collaborate and identify ways and means of enhancing the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteer service in the preparations for and observance of the Year." It further designated the UNV programme "without prejudice to existing priorities, as the focal point for preparations, implementation and follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers..."

47. In line with the General Assembly mandate, and with a view to ensuring that the Year was both global and inclusive, UNV launched an extensive advocacy campaign aimed at promoting greater awareness of the important role that volunteers play in social and economic development; stimulating discussion on the concept of volunteerism; and publicizing the Year and its objectives. Specific initiatives and activities undertaken at national, regional and global level in the implementation of the above mandate are outlined below.

48. As focal point, UNV established a team to facilitate the coordination of IYV 2001. It also mobilized the resources required to support all its activities related to the Year. One of the most wide-reaching and cost-effective outreach channels set up by UNV was an interactive IYV web site in four languages. More than 21,000 organizations and

individuals registered on this web site and engaged in an active exchange of views and experiences—moderated by UNV—on policy issues, supportive legislation and good practice pertaining to volunteering. The web site became a hub for information as news of volunteer events flowed in from and was disseminated to all parts of the world. Indeed, the IYV web site developed into a volunteer portal for this broad network of organizations, researchers, governments and United Nations partners. Drawing on material posted on the web site, UNV published and disseminated a monthly electronic newsletter to over 14,000 subscribers. To reach those without access to the Internet, information and promotional materials were distributed through UNDP country offices, civil society umbrella groups and NGO liaison organizations.

49. As part of its advocacy work, UNV stimulated international discussion on the value and contributions of volunteerism and its role in development. This dialogue built on initiatives undertaken by UNV to convene meetings of international experts on volunteering and to publish two reports with recommendations for government action on the various forms of volunteering, including the contribution it makes to economic and social development. In this context, UNV initiated a partnership with researchers from countries with experience in quantifying the economic and social values of volunteer work to prepare a tool kit for measuring volunteering. In early 2001, the tool kit was widely disseminated by UNV and subsequently applied by several developing countries interested in establishing their own indicators of the scale of volunteer contributions at the domestic level. In partnership with a university-based development research centre in Germany, UNV also launched a comparative study on the volume and value of volunteering in countries of different income levels. To coincide with the official close of IYV on 5 December 2001, UNV issued a report on volunteering and the United Nations system prepared in consultation with many of the organizations that make up the United Nations family. It not only provides an overview of the diverse expressions of volunteering in United Nations activities but leads to the conclusion that volunteering is, indeed, at the core of the ideals and the mission of the United Nations.

50. At the national level, UNV focused attention on encouraging and assisting developing countries in their preparation for IYV 2001, including in the formation of national steering committees. These IYV National Committees became the main driving force behind activities undertaken to implement the objectives of the Year. By the end of 2001, 125 national and 14 city IYV committees had been established. Examples of specific initiatives undertaken by UNV to facilitate the work of the committees in developing countries and to enhance the sustainability of their efforts included support in the planning of activities for the Year, establishing networks among stakeholders at the national and regional level to share experiences, and generating discussion within committees about their potential role in the post-IYV period. These activities were further enhanced by bringing people together at the regional level. In the eight regional workshops held in Bangladesh, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Suriname and Thailand, more than 470 persons from 60 countries representing governments, civil society organizations, academia and the media participated. UNV also recruited 50 national UNV volunteers, supported through UNDP country offices, to work with National Committees in implementing their plans for the Year.

51. At the global level, UNV supported and participated in a number of important international meetings and workshops in Amsterdam, Geneva, Havana, New Delhi, New York, Prague, Rio de Janeiro, Senegal, Tokyo and Vancouver. UNV also actively worked with various intergovernmental bodies to ensure that due recognition be given to the contributions of volunteers in their work programmes and conference decisions. For example, at its twenty fourth special session on the World Summit for Social Development and beyond, the General Assembly adopted resolution S-24/2 stating in Commitment 4 the need to "promote the contribution that voluntarism can make to the creation of caring societies as an additional mechanism in the promotion of social integration" (Ref: A/S-24/10 paragraph 54 page 28). Similarly, in its resolution 56/38 of 5 December 2001, the General Assembly called upon governments and the United Nations system to give due consideration to the various recommendations contained in the resolution in support of volunteering. In recognition of the role of the UNV programme as the volunteer arm of the United Nations system and its work in promoting volunteerism, it recommended the need to "build on the acquired experience of the United Nations Volunteers in enhancing the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteering". The Member States further requested the Secretary-General to report on the outcome of the International Year of Volunteers and its

follow-up at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly. A compilation of resolutions of United Nations and other inter-governmental bodies relating to volunteering will be made available to the Executive Board at its annual session. This growing body of international legislation provides a lasting legacy of IYV underscoring the benefits of factoring volunteering into the design and implementation of economic and social policies.

52. UNV involved the private sector in raising awareness of the diverse and significant contributions of volunteers world wide. For example, in partnership with an Italian clothing manufacturer, an image campaign, depicting volunteers at work, was launched in some 30 countries in four regions through newspapers, magazines and billboard displays. In addition, the corporation's widely distributed quarterly magazine was dedicated to highlighting the multiple forms that volunteering can take, thereby drawing increased public attention to the role of volunteers and volunteerism in society. Support from the private sector in promoting IYV was also obtained from a German manufacturer for the UNV-led HIV/AIDS awareness-raising campaign in Africa (see paragraph 25) and from an American broadcasting corporation which produced, pro bono, videos on volunteer action for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Year.

53. To give IYV a higher profile at national and international levels, the Secretary-General invited a group of Eminent Persons, representing different regions and facets of volunteer involvement, to support a range of activities undertaken during the Year. These included: His Royal Highness, Prince Felipe of Asturias; former President of Ghana, Mr. Jerry Rawlings; Ms Anita Roddick, a renowned business leader in corporate volunteering; and Dr. Nafis Sadiq, the former Executive Director of UNFPA and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General. The participation of these Eminent Persons in international forums, country missions and field activities resulted in heightened awareness of the contributions of volunteers and increased voice and visibility for volunteer action.

III. Resource management

A. Financial resources

54. Annex II provides a financial overview of the UNV programme as a whole. Information under Regular resources relates to the Special Voluntary Fund. Other resources relate to (a) cash contributions to UNV itself under trust funds, other co-financing arrangements and the biennial support budget (approximately 30 per cent) and (b) the financial value of volunteer assignments that are charged directly to agencies and partners (approximately 70 per cent). Although the latter does not correspond with cash contributions to UNV directly, it is incorporated in the overview in order to present a total order of magnitude, in financial terms, of the activities of UNV. Annex III lists cash contributions to UNV from different sources by country.

55. As reflected in annex II, the total estimated value of activities carried out in 2000-2001 was $210.3 million, about 40 per cent more than in 1998-1999. Of this total amount, $12.0 million or approximately 6 per cent was financed from the SVF and $198.3 million, or approximately 94 per cent, from other resources. A slight decrease in the overall value of activities is foreseen in the current biennium. This corresponds with the estimated combined effect of growth under the SVF, trust funds, other co-financing activities and activities financed by United Nations partner agencies, funds and programmes and a decline in activities in the context of major United Nations peace-keeping operations. This decline reflects the anticipated scaling-down of major activities in Kosovo, East Timor and Guatemala, which, it is foreseen, will be partly offset by an increased involvement in other missions.

1. Special Voluntary Fund

56. During 2000-2001, a total of $13.3 million was approved under the SVF for new pilot and experimental projects. Total expenditures during the period reached $12.0 million or close to double the amount during 1998-1999. Of the

$25.9 million balance of resources as at 31 December 2001, a total of $12.9 million was fully committed in the form of approved budgets for future years. Against the resulting balance of uncommitted resources of $ 11.0 million, a portfolio of projects of $ 8.0 million had already been developed, including six major initiatives designed to complement UNDP programmes in the area of democratic governance.

2. Other resources

57. Activities financed from resources other than the SVF amounted to $198.3 million or 94 per cent of the total. Of the total $164.9 million in programme expenditure, approximately 21 per cent was financed from programme resources of UNDP itself, approximately 18 per cent from resources of other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, approximately 48 per cent under DPKO missions and 13 per cent under trust funds, full funding and other co-financing arrangements.

3. Biennial support budget

58. With regard to the biennial support budget for UNV, in its decision 2001/13 of 14 September 2001, the Executive Board approved the proposals of the Administrator contained in document DP/2001/21. In accordance with those proposals, the total UNV support budget, financed from all sources, is estimated at $34.4 million for 2002-2003. Out of this total, the component financed from voluntary contributions to UNDP is to decrease further to $24.5 million, 25 per cent less than in 1996-1997. In order to achieve this reduction, a two-pronged approach was followed in the recent past and will continue to be followed in 2002-2003: (a) an overall reduction of cost and increase in efficiency and (b) an offsetting income based on a support cost charge relating to volunteer assignments that are not financed from the UNDP programme resources. The part of the UNV support budget financed from resources other than UNDP is estimated to increase significantly to $10.0 million in 2002-2003. This is fully consistent with the fact that the strongest growth of the programme has been in non-UNDP financed activities.

B. Volunteer resources

59. During the biennium, UNV continued to identify ways in which it could streamline the processing of applications as well as expand its outreach capacity. In addition to maintaining its traditional methods of recruitment through UNDP country offices and partner organizations, UNV introduced an online application process. This system has allowed more rapid processing of applications and recruitment of volunteers and greater ease in adjusting the skills mix within the 108 professional categories of the UNV roster. It has also contributed to the broadening of the UNV recruitment base. Since the introduction of this tool, the number of nationalities represented on the roster increased from 156 in 1999 to 174 in 2001. Equally important, the online application system includes a facility that directs the growing number of individuals interested in volunteering, but who do not have a UNV volunteer profile, to alternative opportunities to volunteer. As part of its review of comparable systems throughout the United Nations, a team of experts from the Secretariat evaluated the UNV system that supports the rostering, identification and administration of UNV volunteers as probably the best comparable human resource management programme developed within the organization to date.

60. In line with its commitment to expand opportunities for volunteers to offer their services, UNV launched two new initiatives during the reporting period. The first was the introduction of an online volunteering service as part of the netaid.org web site. This opened up new possibilities for many more individuals to volunteer their skills and time for development. It provided a means for organizations to access knowledge and expertise. Since the inception of the facility in March 2000, almost 9,000 people from 160 countries have offered their services. Of these, some 3,000 carried out assignments, ranging from translating and editing to legal counseling and mentoring, with host institutions from nearly 60 countries. Nearly two thirds of the online volunteers were women, many from developing countries, representing an important development in South-South volunteering. One online volunteer who linked up to a Ugandan NGO run by and for people with disabilities, eventually managed a group of 150 people providing online

support. This group now constitutes the organization's virtual department, carrying out tasks that include web design, research and the formulation of project proposals. This example demonstrates the vast potential and pioneering character of online volunteering. It is further expected that online volunteering will become an efficient means for returned UNV volunteers to continue their efforts from home, thus linking on-site and online assignments for development.

61. Given its commitment to promoting and creating opportunities for volunteering among young people, UNV also launched a pilot UNV intern scheme. During the reporting period, almost 40 interns – recently graduated from university – served in developing countries in areas such as judiciary reform, refugee assistance, the development of literacy campaigns and the application of information and communication technology. Supporting a range of United Nations system partners, these UNV interns gained a better understanding of the potential of volunteer action in effecting change and contributed to the host country's overall development.

62. With an increasing number of UNV volunteers serving in crisis regions, UNV – in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) and partner agencies – conducted activities aimed at enhancing the safety of UNV volunteers. These steps complemented the United Nations security management system at the country level into which UNV volunteers are fully integrated. Specifically, missions were undertaken to assess the security situation and strengthen safety coverage for UNV volunteers assigned to more hazardous duty stations. A series of safety and security workshops for UNV programme officers and administrative assistants was conducted that brought together 76 participants from 38 countries. Conducting follow-up workshops in their respective host countries, these participants subsequently reached out to some 1,500 UNV volunteers.

C. Management and administration

63. Actions taken in the area of management and administration further built on the achievements of previous years. These were reported in document DP/2000/24. Overall activities are guided by a well-established framework of values and operating principles and seven key planning goals relating to: policy; the International Year of Volunteers; partnerships; people; performance; external resources; and internal resources.

64. In 2000 - 2001, UNV concluded a re-branding exercise. As part of this process, UNV reassessed its position and role as a partner in development and an advocate for volunteerism and reflected upon the key characteristics that shape the Programme. This contributed to a deepened understanding and renewed commitment of staff to the vision and strategic directions that the Programme will take in the future. The development of the new corporate design, as a component of this re-branding, contributed significantly to raising visibility for and recognition of UNV as the volunteer arm of the United Nations.

65. In line with its commitment to promote effective organizational learning, UNV established a learning team to identify ways to strengthen further the skills and knowledge base of UNV staff. Greater emphasis was given to team-based learning activities, on-site training, peer learning, mentoring arrangements and the training of trainers. This approach resulted in staff taking greater responsibility for developing their own core competencies; more effective interaction among units; and better internal communication. In a continued effort to support UNV programme officers and administrative assistants working at the country level, UNV established a comprehensive country briefing kit to serve as a guide for newly arrived UNV volunteers.

66. During the biennium, UNV undertook a series of steps to maximize efficiency gains. Three years after the implementation of new work flow processes, UNV reassessed the impact of these measures. The recommendations emerging from the review were subsequently incorporated into the UNV business plan. UNV also introduced business integration software to provide seamless integration of data systems across all areas of its work. This contributed significantly to the further streamlining of UNV work flow processes and improvements in the quality of management

information. Effective 1 January 2000, a simpler approach was introduced to cover UNDP country office support to the UNV programme in the field. The approach was developed jointly by UNV and the UNDP Office of Budget, Bureau of Management, to rationalize business processes in line with the goals set out in the Administrator's Business Plans 2000-2003. The advantages of this new approach are that: (a) it provides an incentive for country offices; (b) it is easy to administer and reduces substantially high transaction costs; and (c) it is applied across the board in a transparent, flexible manner.

IV Challenges and opportunities

67. The International Year of Volunteers has provided a valuable platform from which to highlight the significant contributions of volunteerism and volunteers to economic and social development worldwide. This opens a unique opportunity for the United Nations system and UNV to build on the IYV momentum by galvanizing this powerful volunteer force in support of the Millennium development goals. However, to succeed, it is important to challenge, where they still exist, stereotypes associated with volunteering and, by implication, with UNV itself. Taking on this challenge must be guided by the understanding that it is through collective forms of voluntary action that people living in poverty can participate in society and contribute to their own development . These contributions rarely find their way into the account books of nations. Too often the impression is fostered of a one-way conveyor belt of volunteers from North to South, the reality is quite different. Moreover, in the minds of many, volunteer contributions are taken for granted and therefore are frequently underrated, unwittingly depriving policy makers and communities alike of the potential to tap valuable resources. UNV will continue to mobilize volunteers to participate in the programmes of partner organizations. However, the challenge will be for UNV to legitimize its extended role of promoting the volunteer dimension across the entire range of United Nations peace and development activities and to ensure that serving UNV volunteers become the best advocates of volunteerism as a development concept.

68. Within this general context, the international community will continually be challenged to find relevant approaches to respond appropriately to the increased incidence and risk of violent conflict and natural disaster in programme countries. To complement and support the initiatives of its United Nations system partners in this regard, UNV must not only bring to bear the full range of volunteer human resources available through its traditional recruitment mechanisms but also continue to explore and open new opportunities for people to engage in volunteer action. The current UNV strategy of drawing on the rich talents of Afghan expatriate nationals who wish to make a contribution to the rebuilding of their country as UNV volunteers is but one example of the potential that the Programme has to offer.

69. Initiatives such as the UNV-managed online volunteering programme is another example of how UNV can be instrumental in engaging an ever-widening group of citizens in support of development cooperation . Indeed, while it took 30 years to build the UNV annual cadre of 5,000 on-site volunteers, it took only 30 months to mobilize 5,000 volunteers online. The opportunity ahead is to create synergies between the organization's on-site and online volunteers to maximize the full potential of these technologies to inspire global solidarity in a globalizing world.

70. The centrality of UNDP for successful pursuit of these new opportunities by UNV cannot be overstated. As a programme administered by UNDP, UNV has, through its volunteers, the opportunity of helping to ensure that policy dialogue is informed by local realities and is, in turn, ultimately reflected in action on the ground. It is incumbent on both organizations through their joint programme performance to demonstrate this.

71. The information provided in chapter III illustrates that only six per cent of UNV activities are financed from the Special Voluntary Fund. Although this fund is small, it is a crucial element in enabling UNDP and UNV to undertake creative and pioneering activities in the field that are designed to test and demonstrate the role that volunteerism and volunteers can play in social and economic development. Had it not been for the SVF, UNV would not have been able to take some of the initiatives and introduce some of the innovations for which it is now credited and recognized.

Uncommitted balances of previous years have now been programmed. It is important, therefore, that annual contributions to the SVF increase from the current level of about $3.5 million per year to a level of $10 million per year. The Administrator believes that $10 million is the optimal level required to maintain the balance of pilot and experimental initiatives necessary for continuing to enhance the role of UNV in support of development through the promotion of volunteerism and the mobilization of volunteers.

Annex I

UNV statistical overview
Assignments and volunteers by region, origin and gender, 1998-2001

	1998				1999				2000				2001			
UNV assignments **Total**	**4 047**				**4 755**				**5 181**				**5 432**			
	International	National	Total	Percentage	International	National	Total	Percentage	International	National	Total	Percentage	International	National	Total	Percentage
Region																
Africa	1 305	403	1 708	42%	1 280	430	1 710	36%	1 147	429	1 576	30%	1 058	520	1 578	29%
Asia and the Pacific	650	286	936	23%	1 225	272	1 497	31%	1 180	302	1 482	29%	1 658	444	2 102	39%
Arab States	183	78	261	7%	166	86	252	5%	167	119	286	6%	103	157	260	5%
Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States	246	252	498	12%	380	178	558	12%	966	153	1 119	22%	647	133	780	14%
Latin America and the Caribbean	436	208	644	16%	444	294	738	16%	479	239	718	14%	434	278	712	13%
Total	2 820	1 227	4 047	100%	3 495	1 260	4 755	100%	3 939	1 242	5 181	100%	3 900	1 532	5 432	100%
Per cent	70%	30%	100%		74%	26%	100%		76%	24%	100%		72%	28%	100%	

UNV volunteers **Total**	**3 643**		**4 383**		**4 780**		**5 090**	
Origin								
From industrial countries	1 179	32%	1 561	36%	1 597	33%	1 743	34%
From developing countries	2 464	68%	2 822	64%	3 183	67%	3 347	66%
Gender								
Male	2 283	63%	2 811	64%	3 086	65%	3 207	63%
Female	1 360	37%	1 572	36%	1 694	35%	1 883	37%

Annex II

UNV resource planning table
Projected resource availability and utilization of resources

(Millions of US dollars)

	2000-2001			2002-2003		
Resources available	**Regular resources (SVF)**	**Other resources**	**Total resources**	**Regular resources (SVF)**	**Other resources**	**Total resources**
Opening balance	26.5	24.4	50.9	25.9	38.9	64.8
Income						
Contributions [a])	6.9	210.5	217.4	10.0	201.0	211.0
Interest, miscellaneous income and proforma external costs (net)	4.6	2.2	6.8	2.5	2.0	4.5
Total	38.0	237.2	275.2	38.4	241.9	280.3
Use of resources						
A. Programme expenditures	11.7	164.9	176.5	16.0	157.0	173.0
B. Net transfers/adjustments	0.4	0.8	1.2	-	-	-
C. Biennial support budget						
Programme support		23.0	23.0		23.5	23.5
Management and administration		9.5	9.5		10.0	10.0
Total	12.0	198.3	210.3	16.0	190.5	206.5
Closing balance	25.9	38.9	64.8	22.4	51.4	73.8
Commitments for future years						
A. Projects, programme support, Management/administration	12.9	31.6	44.5	15.4	43.9	59.3
B. External costs of serving volunteers	2.0	-	2.0	2.0	-	2.0
Total commitments	14.9	31.6	46.5	17.4	43.9	61.3
Closing balance (uncommitted resources)	11.0	7.2	18.3	5.0	7.5	12.5

Note. As a result of rounding, (sub)totals in this table may differ slightly from the sum of individual components.

[a] Includes under Other resources the UNV biennial support budget, which is part of the UNDP biennial appropriations

Annex III

Cash contributions to UNV, biennium 2000 - 2001
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Donor country	Regular resources	Other resources *		Total
		Government	Other	
Australia			152.6	152.6
Austria**	101.0			101.0
Bangladesh	2.0			2.0
Belgium **		3 317.0		3 317.0
Bhutan	1.4			1.4
Burkina Faso	3.6			3.6
Canada	130.0	83.0	46.0	259.0
China	60.0			60.0
Cyprus	4.9			4.9
Czech Republic	62.7	80.7		143.4
Denmark			453.9	453.9
Finland		2 647.8		2 647.8
France	138.4	136.5		274.9
Germany **	3 254.7	437.2	46.8	3 738.7
India	30.0			30.0
Ireland	866.6	239.6	633.3	1 739.5
Italy	131.3	3 324.7		3 456.0
Japan		5 866.0	1 975.0	7 841.0
Korea, Rep. Of		400.0		400.0
Lesotho	1.3			1.3
Netherlands	613.7		1 180.8	1 794.6
New Zealand		4.3		4.3
Peru			2.2	2.2
Panama	0.5			0.5
San Marino		35.0		35.0
Spain		3 518.1		3 518.1
Sri Lanka	3.0			3.0
Sweden	294.4	462.1	72.4	828.9
Switzerland	679.8	527.9		1 207.7
Syria	2.9			2.9
Thailand	4.9			4.9
Turkey	50.0			50.0
United Kingdom **		700.4		700.4
USA	200.0			200.0
Other ***	245.5		1 536.9	1 782.3
TOTAL	**6 882.7**	**21 780.4**	**6 099.9**	**34 762.8**

* Other resources comprise trust funds, full funding of UNV assignments and cost-sharing

** Includes contributions received in 2002 for 2001

*** Reflects contributions from private sector, foundations, international financial institutions and United Nations system agencies